

**01648**

**1993/11/26**

IMMEDIATE

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INCOMING

PRE 2 17

PAGE 01 BEIJIN 42500 261155Z 039810 5072559  
ACTION: CM (05)INFO: EAP (01) P (01) RA (01) EXN (01) CC (02)  
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ACTION EAP-00

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 AIT-03 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01 OAS-00  
DINT-05 DODE-00 DODE-00 EUR-00 H-01 H-01 TEDE-00  
INR-00 1-00 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OMB-01  
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7827  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AIT TAIPEI 2949  
AMCONSUL SHENYANG  
AMCONSUL SHANGHAI  
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL CHENGDU

CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 042500

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, APEC, CH, US  
SUBJECT: CHINESE PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO CLINTON-JIANG  
MEETING: AN UNCERTAIN BEGINNING

REF: A) BEIJING 41535 NOTAL, B) FBIS HK 2311102993

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE PRELIMINARY CHINESE REACTION TO  
PRESIDENT CLINTON AND JIANG'S MEETING IN SEATTLE HAS BEEN  
TENTATIVE AND LOW KEY. WHILE MEDIA REPORTS HAVE FOCUSED  
ON REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JIANG AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN  
DESCRIBING THE MEETING AS "A GOOD BEGINNING," THIS  
CAUTIOUS PUBLIC TREATMENT AND GENERALLY CIRCUMSPECT  
COMMENTS FROM EMBASSY CONTACTS INDICATE THAT A FINAL  
CHINESE SPIN MAY NOT EMERGE UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER JIANG AND  
QIAN'S RETURN FROM THEIR CURRENT TRIP NEXT WEEK. HONG  
KONG PRC-CONTROLLED MEDIA HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE UPBEAT,  
AS WAS ONE CHINESE DIPLOMAT HERE. END SUMMARY.3. IN CONTRAST TO THE EXTENSIVE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILD-  
UP OF THE NOVEMBER 20 MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CLINTON  
AND JIANG ZEMIN AS A TURNING POINT IN U.S.-CHINA  
RELATIONS, THE PRELIMINARY CHINESE REACTION TO THE TWO  
LEADER'S MEETING HAS BEEN TENTATIVE AND LOW KEY. ALTHOUGH  
THE JIANG-CLINTON BILATERAL RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE  
ON NOVEMBER 21, IT COMPETED WITH OR WAS SUPERSEDED BY THE  
ECONOMIC RESULTS OF THE APEC MEETING, JIANG'S OTHER  
BILATERALS WITH APEC LEADERS AND DETAILS OF HIS SUBSEQUENT  
CONFIDENTIAL 2BILATERALS WITH APEC LEADERS AND DETAILS OF HIS SUBSEQUENT  
VISITS TO CUBA AND BRAZIL. NOR WAS THERE PRESS REPORTING  
OF MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
(MOTEC) WU YI'S MEETING WITH U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
KANTOR OF SECRETARY OF COMMERCE BROWN.4. MEDIA REPORTS FOCUSED ON REMARKS BY PRESIDENT JIANG  
AND VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHENDESCRIBING THE MEETING AS A "GOOD BEGINNING" IN U.S.-CHINA  
RELATIONS BUT AVOIDING SUPERLATIVES AND SPECIFIC DETAILS.  
JIANG WAS QUOTED REPEATING THE CHINESE POSITION THATBEIJIN 42500 261155Z 039810 5072559  
DIFFERENCES SHOULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH DIALOGUE BASED ON  
EQUALITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT WITHOUT RECOURSE TO PRESSURE  
BY EITHER SIDE. NOTICEABLY LACKING IN THE POST-MEETING  
COVERAGE WERE FOLLOW-ON COMMENTARIES IN THE OFFICIAL  
MAINLAND PRESS. HOWEVER, AN EDITORIAL ON THE CLINTON-  
JIANG MEETING IN THE PRC-CONTROLLED HONG KONG WEN WEI PO  
(REF B) WAS POSITIVE IN TONE.5. A MIDDLE-RANKING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SECONDED TO  
THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD US  
THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING WAS A PLUS FOR CHINA ON TAIWAN-  
RELATED GROUNDS, SINCE PRESIDENT CLINTON REAFFIRMED THE  
U.S. ONE CHINA POLICY AND COMMITMENT TO THE THREE U.S.-  
CHINA COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, IN OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH  
POLOFFS THIS WEEK, MFA OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GENERALLY  
CIRCUMSPECT. LIKEWISE, A CURSORY SAMPLING OF CHINESE  
GOVERNMENT THINK TANK RESEARCHERS ELICITED NO TRENCANT  
COMMENT.6. THIS CAUTIOUS TREATMENT MAY INDICATE NOTHING MORE THAN  
THAT JIANG AND QIAN ARE STILL ON THE ROAD. BEIJING HAD  
BILLED THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING AS A KEY TURNING POINT IN  
U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 19, THE CHINESE  
APPROACH EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE U.S. AND CHINA TO  
FOCUS ON COMMON INTERESTS RATHER THAN DIFFERENCES IN THEIR  
VALUE SYSTEMS AS THE BASIS FOR A NEW MORE POSITIVE  
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. IN AN UNPRECEDENTED COURTING OF  
THE AMERICAN PRESS, JIANG AND QIAN ATTEMPTED TO DEFINETHESE INTERESTS PRIMARILY IN ECONOMIC TERMS. IN HIS  
SPEECH AT THE BOEING CO. AND VISIT TO AN AMERICAN FAMILY,  
JIANG HIGHLIGHTED CHINA'S GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND  
THE BENEFITS TO AMERICAN FIRMS AND WORKERS FROM AN  
IMPROVED U.S.-CHINA RELATIONSHIP.7. COMMENT: CHINA'S PRESENCE AT APEC BROUGHT IT ONTO THE  
WORLD STAGE IN A POSITIVE WAY THAT CONTINUED BEIJING'S  
CONFIDENTIAL 3QUEST FOR RECOGNITION AS A MAJOR REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL  
PLAYER. SIMPLY BY AVOIDING ANY MAJOR PUBLIC CAFFES OR  
SERIOUS FRICTION WITH TAIWAN IN SEATTLE, JIANG HAS  
BOLSTERED HIS PERSONAL STATURE WITHIN THE CHINESE  
LEADERSHIP AND DISPELLED CONCERNS THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE UP  
TO SUCH HIGH-STAKES EXPOSURE. FOR NOW, HOWEVER, WE MAY  
HAVE TO WAIT JIANG AND QIAN'S RETURN BEFORE SEEING A MORE  
DEFINITIVE LINE EMERGE ON THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING.  
HALLFORD

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR (1)

Date: 1 May 96

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